

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 21, 2009 ("Office Action"). In this Amendment After Final, claim 1 is amended. Claims 2-6 remain unchanged. Claims 7-27 were previously withdrawn. Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-6 shall be pending.

In the *Office Action*, claims 1-6 are rejected based on prior art grounds. For the reasons set forth below, these rejections are hereby traversed.

I. EXAMINER INTERVIEW

The Examiner granted the Applicant a telephonic interview between the Examiner and the Applicants' Attorney, David McKinley. This interview took place on June 10, 2010. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview. During the interview, the Examiner acknowledged that the prior art Goldfarb reference discussed embodiments whereby anchors were implanted in the leaflets of a native valve but that without being tied to anchors on adjacent leaflets with sutures, the implants did nothing to improve functionality or support the leaflets. The Examiner acknowledged that by amending independent claim 1 to recite implanting a "sutureless" reinforcing support, the rejections over Goldfarb would be overcome. This amendment does so and it is believed that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

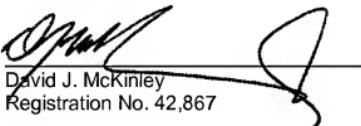
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that pending claims 1-6 are now in condition for allowance. The amendment to claim 1 is done merely to place the claim in condition for allowance, adds no new matter, and does not broaden the scope of claim 1. Hence, entry of the amendment is proper. An indication of allowability is hereby requested.

If for any reason direct communication with Applicants' attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is cordially urged to call the undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-2809.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. McKinley
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